requires careful evaluation and long term sustainable benefits. Extensive Rules and guidelines have been made for evaluating environmental and health safety aspects of genetically modified organisms. Any organisation involved in the use of genetic engineering techniques has to obtain approval of the Review Committee on Genetic Manipulation (RCGM) set up under the 1989 Rules in the Department of Biotechnology for conducting testing under laboratory conditions and confined field conditions. Thereafter approval of Genetic Engineering Approval Committee is required for large scale trials and introduction into the environment.

Registration of Illegal Lead Recycle Industries

2789. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated certain new rules on usage and recycling of acid lead batteries;

(b) if so, the details thereof, along with the number of illegal lead recycle industries which got registered themselves under the rules, so far; and

(c) the fresh steps taken for strict implementation of these rules in order to end menace of lead pollution in the country, especially in the Capital?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government have brought out the Batteries (Management & Handling) Rules, 2001. The rules make it mandatory for manufacturers, assemblers, reconditioners and importers to ensure that the used batteries are collected back as per schedule against new batteries sold and also to ensure their availability only to such recyclers who are registered with the Ministry of Environment & Forests. The recyclers are registered based on their posessing environmentally sound technology for processing lead acid batteries. So far, 41 lead acid battery recycling units possessing environmentally sound technology have been registered with the Ministry. No illegal lead recycling industry has been registered with the Ministry.

(c) The Pollution Control Boards in the States and Pollution

Control Committees in Union Territories have been designated as the prescribed authority to implement the Batteries (Management & Handling) Rules, 2001. These rules have been widely circulated and the implementing agencies have been asked to strictly enforce various provisions of the rules.

Satkosia Forests as Tiger Reserve

2790. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for which there has been delay in declaring the Satkosia forests in Orissa as a Project Tiger Reserve; and

(b) what are the lacunae in Satkosia for which such a delay is occurring in view of the recent such declarations in other States?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Satkosia is not one of the areas approved by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs for being notified as a Tiger Reserve during the IX Plan. Efforts for inclusion of Satkosia as a Tiger Reserve at the fag end of the last financial year of the IX plan may not be fruitful.

Wildlife Crime Intelligence Cell

2791. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been actively considering to set up a Wildlife Crime Intelligence Cell in the country;

(b) if so, the *modus operandi* of the proposed Cell;

(c) whether the Wildlife crimes in the country are increasing and the State Government; as well as Central Government have failed to check them; and

(d) if so, the extent to which the proposed crime cell would check wildlife crimes?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BALLU): (a) and (be) The Central Government has decided to set up a small cell within the Ministry to collect information, assist